



Disaster News

July 14, 2005
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TIPS FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

Here are some tips from officials to assure quick delivery of state and federal disaster assistance to residents of Alabama's declared counties who suffered uninsured or under-insured property losses during Hurricane Dennis.

- No one can receive assistance unless they first register with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling toll free **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or for speech and hearing impaired is **1-800-462-7585**. Those with Internet access are urged to register on-line at www.fema.gov.
- You should register if you lost anything as a result of the disaster. It is not necessary to own real estate. Register because you may need help with unexpected expenses even if your property was insured.
- If you have renters' or homeowners' insurance that may cover your losses you should contact your local agent or insurance company first. You may need to complete your insurance settlement before FEMA can complete your application. FEMA cannot duplicate assistance covered by insurance.
- Federal assistance is available in addition to help you may have received from the Red Cross and other charities, but cannot duplicate that aid.
- You are required to complete and return an SBA loan application in order to receive federal assistance.
- Your losses must be inspected. Make arrangements to be home and allow sufficient time to answer questions. Assistance will be delayed if you are not home.
- Be sure your house number is clearly displayed for inspectors and that FEMA always has a reliable phone number with which to contact you.

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- Renters forced from their homes by disaster damage may apply for rental assistance to relocate temporarily while repairs are made. Reimbursement may be available for hotel bills if your home was uninhabitable.
- Document losses by saving receipts from bills you have paid to repair your property or replace essential possessions. Take photographs and videotape if possible. Disaster assistance is intended to be spent recovering from losses caused by Hurricane Dennis.
- To check the status of an application for assistance or amend an application contact FEMA at the registration number above or go on-line to www.fema.gov.

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FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.